

pay taxes must also repay their loans. With this new opportunity must come new responsibility.

But these EXCEL accounts are just the beginning. I also want to give tens of thousands of young people the chance to pay for part of their college education or advanced job training through a program of national service. With national service, we can open a new world to a new generation, one where higher learning goes hand-in-hand with a higher purpose of addressing our Nation's unmet needs, educational, social, and environmental. Things that will secure the future, we will all share together.

Americans, without regard to age, will be able to earn credit against college costs before, during, or after college by working as tutors for children, volunteers at hospitals, as public safety officers, or in countless other grassroots community efforts that are working all across America today but need more help. College graduates can repay a portion of their loans by working as teachers or police officers in underserved areas. National service will mark the start of a new era for America, one in which every citi-

zen can become an agent of change, armed with the knowledge and experience that a college education brings and ready to transform the world in which we live, city by city, community by community, block by block, person by person. National service will operate at the level Americans know best, the grassroots. Its programs will be locally driven, because we trust communities to know what works. And this program is designed and will succeed without a traditional Washington bureaucracy. And believe me, no one will miss that.

Expanding opportunity, restoring responsibility, reviving our sense of community: these are the values that have always made our country strong. America has always succeeded when we've understood that we're all in this together. With national service, Americans can help themselves by helping each other. It's the best investment we could ever make in our future.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 a.m. from the Oval Office at the White House.

Statement on the Death of President Ranasinghe Premadasa of Sri Lanka *May 1, 1993*

I am outraged by the assassination of President Ranasinghe Premadasa of Sri Lanka. I condemn this brutal act of terrorism.

President Premadasa served his country with great distinction. As Prime Minister and then as President, he worked tirelessly to promote his country's development and raise the standard of living of all Sri Lankans. His efforts made a real difference to his fellow citizens.

I hope that the people of Sri Lanka will join together at this difficult time to renew their commitment to the fight against terrorism and to underscore their support for their democratic institutions.

Hillary and I wish to extend the sympathy of the American people to the people of Sri Lanka at the loss of their leader. We send our sincere condolences to the family of President Premadasa at this tragic time.

Statement on the Prospects for Peace in Bosnia *May 2, 1993*

The developments in the Vance-Owen process are a positive step, but we have yet to determine whether the Serbs are serious about peace. We will make that judgment based upon their actions on the ground in Bosnia. As Lord Owen

said this morning, "We still have a long way to go."

Other agreements in this protracted war have raised hopes but not changed behavior. We will judge intentions by actions. Accordingly, I have

instructed Secretary Christopher to continue as planned with his consultations through Europe on the measures we will take if the Serbs do not act in good faith.

I have spoken in the past 2 days with a number of congressional leaders as well as President Yeltsin, Prime Minister Major, Chancellor Kohl,

President Mitterrand, Prime Minister Mulroney, and Prime Minister-designate Ciampi. I will continue such consultations.

We all hope for a true and just peace in Bosnia. It must include not only the provisions of peace on paper but also the practices of peace on the ground.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Governor Chris Patten of Hong Kong

May 3, 1993

Bosnia

Q. Mr. President, do you expect the Serbs to keep their word—

The President. The what?

Q. —the Bosnian Serbs? Do you trust the Serbs at this point?

The President. Well, I want to reiterate what we've already said. I want to evaluate them by their actions. We'll see what they do. I hope the Serbian Assembly will support the decision to sign onto Vance-Owen, and we'll just see. We'll just have to measure it as we go along.

Q. Mr. President, are you still committed, as you said, to sending in ground troops to help enforce the peace if it does hold? Would there be American participation in a peacekeeping mission?

The President. We said several weeks ago that the United States would be prepared to support a United Nations effort, heavily engaged in by the Europeans, to help to enforce a peace if a peace was made that we would have no interest in. We were not interested in sending soldiers in there into combat, into a fighting situation but that we thought there would have to be a peacekeeping force there and that we would be prepared to participate.

Q. Well, if this peace holds, then, if Vance-Owen holds, you've got 10 provinces, wouldn't that be a very difficult and dangerous mission for American and United Nations forces?

The President. No, it depends entirely on what happens between now and then. And before I agree to put one American soldier there, we're going to watch events, and I will obviously speak not only to you but directly to the American people about it.

Q. How many do you contemplate sending in?

The President. I think it's very important now to point out—let me just restate what's at stake here—there has been enormous loss of life under especially brutal conditions there. And it is a very politically unstable part of the world, which has significant potential for a wider war.

So the United States has tried to work with our allies—Secretary Christopher, as you know, is on this mission now—in an attempt to get the parties together so that we can present a united front and so that we can keep the pressure up to end the killing but also to stop the prospect of a much wider war, which could cause much more trouble, much more instability. But there has been at this point no decision made on any of that, and I would not make any such decisions without further consultation with the Congress and discussing it directly with the American people.

Q. Why don't the allies agree with you?

Q. Are you getting cooperation from the allies—

The President. So far, the meetings are going great.

Q. Have you talked to Christopher?

The President. I have. I talked to him twice yesterday, talked to him twice.

Q. You mean, they have signed on your policy?

The President. I talked to Christopher, Prime Minister Major, President Mitterrand, the Prime Minister-designate of Italy, to President Yeltsin, and to Chancellor Kohl. I've talked to a lot of people—

Q. And they all agree—

The President. —Prime Minister Mulroney. We have agreed that we're going to keep the